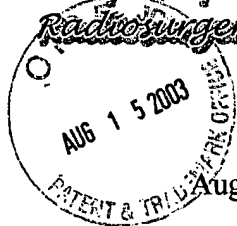


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August 14, 2003

D. Austin Bonderer
USPTO Examiner
Patent and Trademark Office
Washington, DC 20231

Re: Application No: 10/035,281
Applicant: Khanna, Rohit Kumar

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AUG 22 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

*#8
S. Byrce
8/26/03*

Dear Mr. Bonderer:

The following is the response to your requests dated 4/15/2003 regarding the patent application number 10/035,281. I was given one month to respond and henceforth the response extension has been filed along with the appropriate fees.

I have canceled the previous 25 claims and rewritten the claims starting from claim 26 to 51. The original claims had 9 independent claims and the current one has 5.

The species elected has been drawn to claim 26. Claims 35-39 draw to the spacing means component without the fixation means component of claim 26. Claims 40-51 draw to the fixation means component without the bone spacer component of claim 26.

Sincerely,

R Khanna

Rohit K. Khanna, MD

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